

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Location: Brandywine Hundred Library, Foulk Road, Wilmington

Members present: BJ Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)
Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)
Mike Parkowski proxy for Pasquale Canzano (DSWA)
Bill Miller proxy for Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)
George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry)
Brenna Goggin (Delaware Nature Society)
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)
Tom Houska (Waste Management, Inc.)
Basil Kollias (DE Chamber of Commerce)
Marianne Cinaglia (DelEASI)
Kelly Davis (Educator, DelTech-Owens Campus)
Julie Miro Wenger (Delaware Food Industry Council)
Kyle Sonnenberg (DE League of Local Governments)

Members absent: Dick Cecil (Del. Association of Counties)
Carrie Leishman (Restaurant Industry)

Non-members present: Don Long (DNREC) Kathy McDaniel (C&D Contractors)
Allen Thienpont (Waste Industries) Dave Bart (Swift Demo and Recy.)
Terry McBride (Burns & McBride) Scott Johnson (Republic Services)
Jim McBride (Burns & McBride)

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 P.M.

Certificate Presentations – Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Wally Kremer, Dick Fleming and Pat Todd (not present) for their work on the Council.

Public Comments – None at this time

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of September 28, 2011

The meeting minutes were unanimously approved after minor corrections.

Bottle Fee Collection Update

Bill M. stated the bottle fee collection so far for September 2011 was \$117,184, but emphasized that it was preliminary and would likely double. He explained that the soda beverage industry has sent a letter to retailers in some way explaining the bottle fee requirements. As of August 2011, over \$2.3 million in revenue has been collected. At that rate, the program would only be expected to collect \$13 million. He added that \$4.5 million in grants were awarded in the first round and that later cycles of grants will be less than the first cycle. DNREC is paying very close attention to the money being collected and the money spent and will not put themselves in a position to risk spending more than they generate. Marianne C. asked and Bill M. explained that the fees are actually collected by the Division of Revenue. Brenna G. asked where the funding from the initial grant cycle came from and BJ commented that it was borrowed from other funds within DNREC. BJ said he would follow up with the Division of Revenue about hiring additional staff and reconciling the list from industry.

Recycling Grant/Loan Program Update

Bill M. announced that there has been about \$4.5 million in reimbursements. All entities have received their final payments or are in the process of receiving their final payments, so the first cycle should be closed out soon. BJ asked about timing of the next round of grants start and Bill M. said the law requires a grant offering each year. The deadline for multi-family recycling is January 1, 2013. Bill M. asked everyone to start thinking about grant guidelines related to multi-family recycling and said he would like to have a grant offering sooner than later.

Commercial Recycling Update

Bill M. explained that DNREC will start working to form a subcommittee and define commercial recycling and what components of it will be included under universal recycling. Jim Short will focus in on this task in January.

Measurement Committee & Annual Report Update

BJ stated that the Report is going well and close to being complete. The Subcommittee is still waiting on data from DSM Environmental, an environmental consultant used for measurement. BJ expects to send a draft of the report to the RPAC for review on November 9. BJ also mentioned that the previous reports may have overestimated construction and demolition debris (C&D) recycling. Mike P. commented that the methodology is very well done and data is very useful. No other states have completed such a detailed study.

Outreach and Education

Bill M. reported that the How To Recycle Guide is now finalized. It will soon be available on-line and in limited quantities of hard copy. He also stated that DNREC has held 10 public meetings focused on universal recycling, numerous others, placed radio ads, developed a facebook page, produced 11 billboards throughout Delaware, worked with the Division of Aging on distributing flyers to senior centers and an informative page in their publication *Lifestyles 55*, and produced a tv commercial that will soon air on WMDT. Bill M. replied to a question from Marianne C. that some public meeting attendees have concerns, mostly about rates. He said that DNREC advises folks that if they are not satisfied with the price or service they receive, the best thing to do is to contact their existing hauler to negotiate and to call around if they are still not happy. BJ commented on a misconception about recycling going into same truck as trash. He explained about split trucks and how it is economically disadvantageous to collect recyclables and landfill them. BJ commented that we are only officially 6 weeks into the first phase of the program and implementation has seemed to have gone very well.

Recycling Market Update

Paul B. stated that paper sliding a little, down \$20/ton from last month, but other grades are steady. Mike P. said that single-stream material has dropped by about \$7/ton.

Additional Public Comments

Dick F. commented about the recycling fee collection and suggested RPAC advise the Governor's Office and consider some type of amnesty for retailers to catch up with missed payments.

Next Meeting

November 16, 2011 at the DNREC Lewes Facility, 901 Pilottown Road, Lewes – 19958

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned around 3:00 p.m.